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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 20, 1994

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Southwestern trustees
begin Ken Hemphill era

By Toby Druin

Baptist Press
10/20/94

DALLAS (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees heralded the beginning of the Ken Hemphill era, Oct. 17-18, hailing a spirit of prayer and revival on campus and hearing their new president say his first three months on the job had been the "most challenging and invigorating" of his life.

In their first regular meeting since they fired President Russell Dilday Jr. last March, trustees heard upbeat reports from various areas of campus life, elected the seminary's first full-time female faculty member and scheduled Hemphill's inauguration for May 1, 1995, at Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth.

In other business, the trustees:

-- responded to two motions from the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention, agreeing to decline to receive funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and doubling the amount of tuition a student will pay if his church of membership does not support the Cooperative Program.

-- heard reports that the seminary finished its 1993-94 fiscal year in the black, with a \$401,000 surplus in spite of being denied \$200,000 from the CBF, and will receive \$435,000 -- \$100,000 for program and \$335,000 for capital needs -- because Southern Baptists oversubscribed the SBC Cooperative Program budget;

-- voted to establish three new professorial chairs: the W.A. Criswell Chair of Expository Preaching, named for the pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas; the James T. Draper Jr. Chair of Pastoral Ministries, named for the president of the Baptist Sunday School Board; and the Rebekah Naylor Chair of Missions, named for the Southern Baptist missionary physician in India and daughter of retired seminary president Robert E. Naylor;

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-- voted to give B.H. Carroll Awards to Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, and his wife, Bess, and John and Cynthia Thomas of Dallas for "outstanding contributions to the life of the seminary." Smith was cited as a distinguished alumnus and former trustee of the seminary and as having been instrumental in a \$6 million estate coming to the seminary. The Thomases are members of First Baptist Church, Rockwall, Texas, and have been active on the Southwestern Council. He is founder of International Data Systems, Inc., and has made gifts of computer equipment and technological advice to the seminary. The awards will be presented on Founder's Day, March 24, 1995;

-- affirmed the board's bylaws requiring academic freedom in the classroom.

Hemphill, the trustees and faculty members met in a pre-board meeting retreat at the Harvey Hotel, Oct. 15-17, where Hemphill shared his view of the state of the seminary, his goals and seven "vision statements."

In the board meeting he referred to his coming to the presidency as a "supernatural event" and something he had not sought. His first concern, he said, is to "anchor everything in prayer ... one of our tendencies is to try to do supernatural work in natural power."

He noted a Prayerlink program is being established to bring seminary prayer concerns before churches for intercessory prayer and said he believes the seminary can be a center of global prayer strategy.

Karen O'Dell Bullock became the first woman elected to the faculty when the trustees elected her as assistant professor of church history. She currently is teaching on the adjunct faculty as have other women, but none heretofore have been elected faculty members.

Bullock, 41, is a graduate of the University of North Texas and has earned master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees at Southwestern. She and her husband, who heads security for a Fort Worth firm, are members of Southcliff Baptist Church, Fort Worth.

She and Stephen M. Stookey, who also has been an adjunct faculty member and was elected an instructor in church history, were recommended to the trustees for election last March but action was deferred until the fall meeting. Hemphill also was elected to the faculty as professor of evangelism and church growth. The elections were recorded as unanimous. Bullock's and Stookey's appointments are effective Aug. 1, 1995.

Hemphill cited concerns raised by some trustees about Mrs. Bullock's position on the faculty, noting it was in church history, not theology, and that she had assured him that she was under the authority of the seminary president as a faculty member and her husband in her home.

The trustees authorized appointment of a subcommittee to study the feasibility of establishing a "restoration" program on campus. The program would bring to the seminary ministers who have been terminated or gotten into difficulty with their congregation or had other problems. Robert E. Anderson, pastor of Parkview Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La., proposed the program and will chair the subcommittee.

Anderson told the board he has operated a similar program at his church for 20 years and has assisted 136 persons in resuming their ministries.

In other matters deferred from the March meeting, trustees voted to drop a proposed administrative realignment suggested by Dilday. They approved previously deferred tenure for Robert R. Ellis, professor of Old Testament, and for Michael Cox and David Music in the school of church music. Tenure for them and for James Spivey, who was granted tenure and promotion to assistant professor of church history, will be granted as positions become available in keeping tenure to a minimum of 70 percent of faculty.

The three new professorial chairs will be funded with \$1 million each, rather than the \$500,000 required in the past because of lower interest rates. The chairs operate off interest income from the funds given to establish them.

**Trustees approve building project,
discuss faculty-related issues**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) --Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees voted to proceed with the construction of a student and family life ministry center on campus and discussed faculty contract issues during their Oct. 17-18 semiannual meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

Following through on a plan originally proposed to the board in 1990, members of the trustees' building and grounds committee and finance committee recommended proceeding with plans for the family life center, a multi-purpose facility to include a full-size gymnasium. Their recommendation to finance the \$850,000 building by utilizing the resources of the Seminary Housing Corporation (a subsidiary of Midwestern Seminary) was unanimously approved by the board.

James Dobbs, finance committee chairman and an attorney who is a member of Dublin Baptist Church, Dublin, Ohio, said: "We are excited about the opportunity to do something positive for our student body and are grateful that the Seminary Housing Corporation has devised a method by which we can do this."

Trustees voted to go into executive session twice during their two-day meeting, both times to discuss faculty-related matters.

After a two-hour executive session Oct. 17, trustee Reagan Bradford, director of the Lipid Research Clinic for the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and a member of Northwest Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, made a motion the trustees ratify a severance agreement made by the trustee executive committee with former Midwestern professor Wilburn "Bill" T. Stancil. The motion adopted by the trustees affirms "that the financial consideration given to Stancil under this agreement is being provided solely on the basis of compassionate needs associated with family medical problems."

Stancil, a former theology professor at the seminary, was denied tenure during the board's October 1993 meeting.

After a second two-hour executive session on Oct. 18, instruction committee chairman Roger Oldham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Martin, Tenn., presented a recommendation that "consideration of tenure for any professor currently teaching under a tenure-track contract be deferred for a period of time not to exceed four years."

He specifically made reference to two professors -- Larry McKinney, assistant professor of biblical studies, and James Hines, associate professor of religious education and church administration -- who are eligible to be recommended for tenure during the current academic year.

Oldham explained the intent of the motion was to allow time for board members and seminary faculty and administration to draft and adopt new tenure review guidelines and provide opportunity for Midwestern's next president to "get to know" tenure-track professors before recommending them for tenure. (Midwestern President Milton Ferguson previously announced his retirement, effective July 1996.)

A substitute motion was presented by trustee Tim Harvey, pastor of Dayspring Baptist Church, Byron, Ga., to extend the teaching contracts of McKinney and Hines for one year and to vote on recommending them for tenure during the board's April 1995 meeting.

Oldham responded: "In light of the discussion that has preceded (in executive session) the members of the instruction committee would concur with this substitute motion."

The board then voted unanimously to approve the substitute motion.

After the meeting, trustee chairman Lewis Adkison, senior pastor of Circle Drive Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, Colo., said: "We deferred the matter of tenure until April because we were not really prepared to consider it at this time. We didn't know these men and didn't have enough information."

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Thom Meigs, professor of pastoral care, attended the meeting as chairman of Midwestern's faculty affairs committee. In response to the trustee action concerning McKinn y and Hines, h said: "We hurt deeply for our colleagues who were called here by the will of God, but perhaps are being denied their place of s rvice. How do we know when we have done enough to have our place here?"

In other business:

-- Trustees approved a recommendation of their executive committee to decline to receive funds channeled through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The recommendation was made in response to a motion approved by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June, directing SBC agencies and institutions to "avoid compromising the integrity of the Cooperative Program" by refusing financial donations from the CBF.

Since 1990, Midwestern Seminary has received \$180,954 from the CBF. The trustees' recommendation expressed gratitude to those churches and individuals who have provided financial support for Midwestern through the CBF channel, but encouraged donors to "continue their support by channeling their funds through the SBC Cooperative Program or by other means acceptable to them."

-- The board's finance committee noted that although Midwestern's 1993-94 budget reflected a 6 percent decrease from the previous year, the seminary finish d the fiscal year "in the black."

-- Trustees approved a resolution of appreciation presented by members of the instruction committee in honor of Vernon Davis, vice president of academic affairs and dean of the faculty. Davis recently announced his resignation, effective Dec. 31, to accept a position with Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas.

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Midwestern trustees select
presidential search committee

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10/20/94

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary adopted a presidential search process and elected a seven-member search committee during their semiannual meeting, Oct. 17-18, in Kansas City, Mo.

The newly adopted procedures stipulate the chairman of the trustee board will serve as chairman of the presidential search committee. That position currently is filled by Lewis Adkison, senior pastor of Circle Drive Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, Colo.

The other search committee members include: Tim Harvey, pastor, Dayspring Baptist Church, Byron, Ga.; Tony Mattia, pastor, Trinity Southern Baptist Church, Wamego, Kan.; Richard Proctor, attorney and municipal court judge and member of Wynne Baptist Church, Wynne, Ark.; Ronnie Rogers, pastor, Lakeside Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Ark.; Stoney Shaw, pastor, Living Water Community Church, St. Louis; and Dennis Wood, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church on Mill, Tempe, Ariz.

In April this year, Milton Ferguson announced he will retire as president of the seminary in July 1996. During the board's April meeting, trustees appointed a committee to develop a process for the selection of a new president. Midwestern, established in 1957, has had only two presidents in its history. Until now, the seminary's guidelines contained no procedures for a presidential search.

In upcoming weeks, the newly adopted procedures instruct the search committee to develop a timetable for its work and make a public announcement concerning recommendations for seminary president.

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EDITORS' NOTE: Sensitiviti s insid Somalia require Baptist Press to dateline the following two stori s "In Somalia."

**Baptist prayer intervention
helps halt Christian-killing**

IN SOMALIA (BP)--The killing has stopped. For now.

In March suspected Muslim extremists assassinated one of the leaders of the small group of Christians in Somalia -- gunning him down as he walked to work.

On a single day in September, three more Christian believers were shot to death. The following day a list of 120 "Christians" purportedly scheduled for elimination was publicly circulated -- in a city where optimistic estimates put the total number of believers at between just 50 and 75.

"How do you respond, in Christ, to 'hit lists' and the possibility that most of your Somali brothers and sisters in Christ living in that environment may die?" asked a Christian who works closely with the Somali believers.

"What's the strategy, the plan? How do you stop the killing, protect your people and cling to your faith in a loving powerful God?"

He answered himself: "You drop to your knees in prayer."

But not in isolation. He and his wife called the Foreign Mission Board with the message, "They are killing off all our believers."

The mission agency's prayer strategy office got involved immediately.

"Within 24 hours we will have hundreds of Christians interceding on behalf of the Somali believers," the office promised. "Within a few days we will mobilize thousands of prayer warriors. Tell our Somali brothers and sisters of our eternal love and support."

Then the killing stopped.

"There's no explanation other than divine intervention," the worker insisted. "There was no strategy to employ other than prayer. From America and all around the world a hedge of divine protection was erected around that handful of Christians surrounded by death.

"Are the believers safe now? No! Has good will flooded Somalia? No! Has the Muslim fundamentalist leopard changed its spots? No!

"Have God and his people been faithful? Absolutely!"

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**Eulogy for Somali Christian
testifies to faithfulness**

Baptist Press
10/20/94

IN SOMALIA (BP)--Adam Jamaale, as rural Baptist preachers a generation ago would have said, was "rode hard and put up wet."

The Apostle Paul, not being a Southerner, phrased it a bit differently when he said he himself had "fought the good fight ... finished the race ... kept the faith."

Both statements were true of "Adam I," the elder of the small Christian community in overwhelmingly Muslim Somalia, who died recently.

Long before he converted to Christianity in the 1960s, he exhibited a gift for languages. Fluent in Somali, English, Amharic, Arabic and Italian, he served on a select committee that gave Somali its written form after centuries as a purely verbal language. As a Christian he helped translate the New Testament and wrote many hymns -- using the Somali script he helped develop.

He interpreted his leadership role to mean staying in the country -- even when most Somali Christians were forced to flee during the civil war. Hounded for his faith and his clan affiliation, he was shot through the arm and chest in an attempted assassination during the war.

He was separated from his wife and children by the fighting. It took the Christian network and a minor miracle to locate them months later in a Kenyan refugee camp and reunite them.

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From 1970 to 1990 almost every evangelical Christian who came to Somalia wanting to share the faith turned to him to learn language and culture.

Adam I -- so called to distinguish him from a younger Somali Christian of the same name who became Adam II -- was a "cultural teacher par excellence," said a Christian who works with Somalis. "I cherish the hours spent with him under trees, by river banks, in medical clinics and armored vehicles learning about things Somali and things of the kingdom of God.

"We watched him live his faith in a horrendously brutalized society. We saw him encourage other believers, often putting his own life at risk. We saw him work day after day, suffering from the remnants of his wounds and from a very bad, diseased heart."

In the last nine months of his life, when Christians began to be killed by Muslim militants, Adam I tearfully questioned why young Christians were being martyred while he, a sick old man, was allowed to live.

Those martyrs often are buried before any of their fellow believers even know they are dead. But such was not Adam I's fate.

"God intervened on Adam's behalf, honoring his 30 years of sacrificial service by allowing him to die among believers, have believers at his funeral and enabling believers to have memorial services for him inside and outside of Somalia," a friend said.

"You may not be able to imagine how the small Somali Christian community mourned his loss, but it may also be difficult to imagine the joy in this community in how Almighty God honored his homecoming."

Another co-worker said: "Adam fought the fight. He finished his race. He kept the faith. And like Paul claimed in 2 Timothy 4: 'Now there is in store for him a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me on that day.'"

Or, as a country Baptist preacher would say: "Adam, you done good."

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(BP) photo (vertical) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Outline available on SBCNet News Room.

Promise Keepers, Brotherhood
discover common strategies

By Bob Carey

Baptist Press
10/20/94

DENVER (BP)--In a meeting of leaders from the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Promise Keepers, the two men's organizations discovered complementary agendas designed to strengthen local churches.

Both organizations seek to train and equip men to serve God and be the spiritual leaders the Bible calls them to be -- at home and in their church. Promise Keepers desires to motivate men to their godly calling. The Brotherhood Commission seeks to equip the local church to effectively minister, teach and send out its men.

"In response to a motion presented at the Southern Baptist Convention and its assignment to the Brotherhood Commission, our staff has aggressively pursued linkages with Promise Keepers," said James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president.

"We are convinced that we have much to gain through relationships with various national men's ministry groups. We are especially excited about Promise Keepers and their emphasis on male accountability. Their focus adds richness to what the Brotherhood Commission is doing to develop men's ministries options for local Southern Baptist churches," Williams added.

Glenn Wagner, Promise Keeper's vice president for national ministries, described the organization as a "catalytic ministry" that raises the need for men's ministry in local churches. "If a man is Southern Baptist we want him to be the best Southern Baptist," Wagner said.

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"It was refreshing to see how God is moving among men in America and how he is creating relationships to build his kingdom," said Jim Burton, Brotherhood Commission Men's Ministries director.

Through mass rallies and leadership seminars, Promise Keepers has raised the consciousness of ministry to men, Burton said. "They understand their mission and are well focused. They don't want to become the local church, just its helper."

The Brotherhood Commission is seeking to provide local Southern Baptist churches with the resources to minister to and encourage the spiritual growth of their men, according to Burton. To help meet those needs, the Brotherhood Commission has established a Men's Ministries department to help churches find dynamic and unique ways to minister to men.

"The Brotherhood Commission has always challenged men to be on mission, but we haven't always taken the time to nurture men, to help them come to the point that they can discover the personal ministry God has for them," Burton said.

"Promise Keepers causes men to focus on the possibilities of what God wants to do in their life. They teach the Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper. Their last point is a commitment to the Great Commission. Their 'jumping off' point is our strength," Burton said.

"When Glenn said to me, 'How can Promise Keepers help to fulfill Southern Baptist goals?' I knew I was talking to an organization that was truly committed to the local church," Burton said.

Promise Keepers also demonstrates its relationship to the local church by what it chose not to do. "PK" curricula do not compete with ongoing church-based programs, Wagner said.

Church-based men's ministries are encouraged to find a moniker that reflects their unique mission, like "Men of Action" or "Men on Target." The name "Promise Keepers" is copyrighted for use by the national ministry only.

Instead, Wagner said the local church should create a men's ministries strategy and identity that meets its needs.

Promise Keepers, based in Denver, began four years ago under the leadership of Bill McCartney, University of Colorado head football coach. In 1994, more than 250,000 men attended stadium events to be encouraged and challenged in their faith.

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BSSB to produce curriculum
for 'Right from Wrong' campaign By Charles Willis

Baptist Press
10/20/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Baptist Sunday School Board will produce undated curriculum to support widely known speaker and writer Josh McDowell's "Right from Wrong" campaign, according to an announcement by McDowell and board President James T. Draper, Jr.

At a meeting of key Sunday School Board leaders Oct. 19, Draper said he hoped the board's decision to produce curriculum and to promote McDowell's Right from Wrong resources, produced by a variety of publishers, will continue to encourage "Christian publishers to work together to do more things." Publishers participating in addition to the Sunday School Board are Word, Inc., Tyndale, David C. Cook and Star Song.

The BSSB will be the only producer of printed curriculum for use in the campaign, Draper said. Resources for children, youth, college students and adults will be produced by the board's discipleship and family development division and will be unveiled to Southern Baptists, along with other publishers' products, by the board's church growth group during the SBC annual meeting in June 1995.

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Broadman & Holman Publishers will distribute the resources under the B&H imprint to the trade and will introduce them at the Christian Booksellers Association Convention in July 1995. Products, planned for release by the various publishers through 1996, will be available through Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores, the national bookstore chain's toll-free number, 1-800-233-1123, and the board's toll-free corporate order number, 1-800-458-2772.

The campaign was begun in 1993 and is supported by 42 denominational and para-church groups. It has as its goal "to launch a nationwide grassroots effort to resource parents, grandparents, pastors, youth workers and Christian educators to equip youth to know right from wrong, enabling them to make right choices."

McDowell said he believes youth, including Christian youth, are "growing up in a culture of declining morality."

In the 1960s, McDowell observed, the educational system insisted on providing "value-free, morally neutral education." The 1970s, he said, brought the philosophy that "each student must decide what is right for them and what is wrong for them. You do not impose your values on others. You must be tolerant."

With the cooperation of participants from 13 evangelical denominations, including Southern Baptists, McDowell commissioned a research project by the Barna Research Group in which more than 3,700 youth involved in church activities answered 193 questions. In his "Right from Wrong" book, published this month by Word, Inc., McDowell concludes from survey responses "our youth are living on the moral edge, closer to disaster than we ever imagined Large proportions of our youth -- a majority of whom say they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ -- are involved in inappropriate, immoral, even illegal behavior."

McDowell said he believes the fact that "youth do not accept biblically based moral absolutes" is "the biggest threat the church has faced in 2,000 years."

Among behavior teen-agers said they engaged in during a three-month period, the survey demonstrated:

- two of every three participants lied to a parent, teacher or other adult;
- six in 10 lied to their peers;
- one in three cheated on an exam;
- almost one-fourth had smoked cigarettes or used another tobacco product;
- one in five tried to physically hurt someone;
- one in nine had gotten drunk; and
- almost one in 10 had used illegal, non-prescription drugs.

McDowell's book further reports that while 65 percent of participants say they pray and 84 percent say they attend Sunday school and youth group at least once a week, 55 percent indicated they have engaged in fondling or sexual intercourse by age 18. More than half of the participants responded they are confused and 74 percent said they are looking for answers.

The church has not adjusted from a Judeo-Christian culture to today's "post-Judeo-Christian culture," McDowell said, noting he believes "parents and pastors need the greatest help in passing on values to our children."

"We need to show that behind every precept is a moral principle, and behind every moral principle is the character and authority of God himself," McDowell said. "Because you have the moral principle of honesty, you have the precept of thou shalt not bear false witness. Every precept, even though it appears to be negative, is positive because in each is God's intent to protect us and to provide for us. We think those precepts are for God's good, but they are for our good."

McDowell said he plans to devote much of the next three to five years of his speaking schedule to the campaign, adding the issue of passing Christian moral values from adults to young people "is so deep, so big, it is beyond the ability of one individual or one denomination. The entire cause of Christ is going to have to address it, or it will be a failure."

He describes his book as "tough medicine ... medicine that will bring healing, renewal and a rebirth of biblical values among us and our young people."

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The book is available as a part of the national campaign kickoff through Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores.

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(BP) photo (horizontal) to accompany this story is posted in the SBCNet News Room and is being mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the BSSB bureau of Baptist Press. The outline is posted in the SBCNet News Room; filename is Josh.txt.

Baptists offer disaster relief
to flooded southeast Texans

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
10/20/94

DALLAS (BP)--Texas Baptists are providing disaster relief at strategic locations in many of the 26 flooded southeast Texas counties declared a federal disaster area by President Bill Clinton.

Floods in the region -- from metropolitan Houston to remote areas in the East Texas pineywoods -- have claimed at least 10 lives and forced thousands of families from their homes. In some areas, 30 inches of rain fell in five days.

Several churches in Trinity River Baptist Association reported water damage, according to director of missions Duane Kelley. The worst, he said, was First Baptist Church, Hull, Texas, with at least a foot of water in its buildings. The pastor and several families in the church also had high water in their homes.

About one-third of the 97 churches and missions in Tryon-Evergreen Baptist Association were serving as shelters for displaced families, according to C.H. Murphy, director of missions.

Although none of the churches in the association had reported damage, at least one -- Spring Creek Baptist Church, Spring -- was surrounded by water on all sides. However, the church was continuing to provide shelter for families who were brought in by National Guard vehicles or four-wheel-drive vehicles with oversized wheels.

First Baptist Church, Romayor, reported from half to three-fourths of the families in its membership had homes with severe water damage, but the church was continuing to house about 60 people and provide food for up to 100.

At Oak Ridge Baptist Church, Spring, pastor Gordon Sudduth announced members would be compiling lists of family needs for distribution during their Sunday morning worship service Oct. 23. The regularly scheduled Sunday evening service would then be dismissed so members could minister in the community.

Communication from isolated residential areas is limited, but when reports of Baptist families affected by the floods are filed, the Texas Baptist Family Ministry Task Force will provide financial help, according to Richard Faling, director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas' church ministries department.

Disaster relief volunteers traveled to Conroe, Texas, Oct. 18 to respond to the flooding. A half-dozen volunteers left Dallas aboard the Texas Baptist Disaster Relief Mobile Unit -- an 18-wheel, tractor-trailer rig with a self-sufficient field kitchen -- and Command Post -- an RV equipped with HAM radios and other equipment to coordinate communication from remote disaster sites.

Other volunteers staffed smaller regional disaster relief units from Fort Worth, Tyler and Beaumont, Texas.

The Dallas, Fort Worth and Tyler teams met at First Baptist Church, Conroe. From the church, one of several congregations providing emergency shelter for hundreds of families whose homes were flooded, the volunteers were dispatched to areas of greatest need to provide emergency food services.

The large mobile unit and command post was assigned to Dayton, Texas, near the rain-swollen Trinity River, where they set up at First Baptist Church. Volunteers served food directly from the unit's field kitchen in addition to cooking meals delivered by 25 Red Cross emergency response vehicles.

Volunteers can prepare up to 35,000 meals per day at a disaster site working from the large mobile unit's field kitchen.

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Ironically, Don Gibson, lay ministries director for Texas Baptist Men and on-site coordinator for the mobile unit, was scheduled as a state missions speaker in the Wednesday evening services at First Baptist Church in nearby Liberty, Texas. Instead, Liberty County residents saw a state missions demonstration.

Beaumont-area volunteers served their neighbors from the parking lot at First Baptist Church, Beaumont. They prepared meals for more than 500 at noon Oct. 19, serving directly from the unit and supplying meals for a half-dozen Red Cross ERVs.

About 600 Houston residents spent the night of Oct. 18 at an emergency shelter in the hall of the Astrodome. Ten Baptists from the area coordinated food service under the direction of TBM Vice President Herb Weaver of South Main Baptist Church, Houston; regional TBM director Leo Smith of Highland Baptist Church, LaMarque, Texas; and Troyce Bennett of Sugarland, Texas, Baptist Men's director for San Felipe Baptist Association.

Volunteers from Tyler initially set up for emergency food service at First Baptist Church, Hempstead, Texas. On Oct. 19, they were reassigned to the Astrodome in Houston where they served meals to 240 that night and 130 at breakfast the following morning.

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Texas Baptists will provide free temporary emergency child care in the area. Location will be determined after FEMA offices are opened.

Texas Baptists' temporary emergency child care has been approved by the state as a licensed child care facility in disasters, allowing children to get a hot, balanced noon meal and providing parents time to file claims and clean up their homes or businesses. Trained volunteers use carefully developed instructional modules to help children cope with the trauma of disaster.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas works cooperatively with other private organizations through Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAID) which includes the Red Cross, Salvation Army and a number of other church groups.

Texas Baptist Men, a BGCT lay missions organization, maintains a list of about 600 trained volunteers around the state who can be called to respond when disasters strike.

Anyone wishing to contribute to Texas Baptist disaster relief work should designate checks "disaster relief" and send them to the Treasurer's Office, Baptist General Convention of Texas, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, TX 75246-1798.

Volunteers available for clean-up and "mud-out" projects should call the TBM office at (214) 828-5354 or 828-5356.

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Multicultural ministry
a must for ministry

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
10/20/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Multicultural ministry is not an option in today's diverse society if a church or institution takes seriously Christ's commission to reach out to all people with the gospel, according to Ramon Martinez.

"Almost all the nations of the world are represented in the United States," said Martinez, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's multicultural leadership department.

"Why they are here is not the question. The question is how are we going to minister to them, present the gospel and win them to the Lord," he said.

Martinez said the recent name change of his department from ethnic and black church growth to multicultural leadership represents several changes in focus.

Until recently, he said the work of the department consisted primarily of producing Bible study and discipleship materials whereas the work now has been expanded to focus heavily on equipping pastors and other church leaders.

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"We are working closely with the pastor-staff leadership department to provide training and seminars as well as leadership materials such as helps in administration and planning," Martinez said. He currently is seeking to employ a Korean consultant to work with Korean Southern Baptist church leaders to provide training, identify needs and develop strategies for meeting them.

The term "multicultural" delineates the work of the department with many groups while also lifting up the importance of considering cultural distinctives when seeking to minister with individuals and groups, he noted.

"A person's culture includes the things you learn in life, the way you behave, the way you dress, your values and customs," Martinez said.

"Any group has distinctive cultures," he maintained. For example, among Anglo Americans, there are distinctive regional cultures such as southwestern, eastern, midwestern and western.

"In some instances we focus more on culture than language," Martinez noted. For example, the need for materials designed for African Americans is not an issue of language but of culture.

Within language groups such as Hispanic are distinctive cultures, he added, such as Mexican-American, Cuban-American and Puerto Rican.

The recent downsizing of his department by nine positions has required personnel to consider alternative ways of producing materials while continuing to provide items in five languages -- Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and deaf.

More editorial work is being done by contract workers, he noted, even as plans are made to expand language offerings.

One option, he said, is to identify quality materials produced by other groups and distribute those. Another is to utilize materials translated from English on foreign mission fields. However, he emphasized, decisions in this area must be made on an individual basis. In some cases cultural differences outweigh a common language.

"We are looking at more economical ways to produce materials," Martinez said, noting with some groups it will be possible to provide materials on computer diskettes or by electronic transmission. Churches or language fellowships then will be able to print them out for use. Again, the degree of computer literacy varies with culture groups.

"Among Asian churches, almost every pastor has a computer," he said. "They are more accustomed to this technology."

Martinez envisions a language forum on SBCNet, the denomination's computer information network on CompuServe.

He emphasized increased efforts by his department to build working relationships with Southern Baptist ethnic and language fellowships -- the African American Fellowship, Hispanic Baptist Fellowship, Korean Baptist Fellowship and others.

Martinez described the Southern Baptist Convention as culturally diverse now, including work with more than 100 ethnic/language-culture groups. Southern Baptists' more than 38,000 churches include about 1,200 African American congregations, 2,600 Hispanic churches and missions and almost 4,000 churches and missions of other language and culture groups.

He also pointed to the 1994 SBC officers which include Jim Henry, an Anglo pastor, as president; Simon Tsoi, a Chinese-American pastor as first vice president; and Gary Frost, an African American pastor as second vice president.

"Diversity is not the numbers you have but the representation," Martinez said.

However, he expressed optimism that the numbers of ethnic, language and culture members and churches will continue to increase.

"The reality is we have started many new works. Our congregations are growing," he said.

While missions traditionally have been started by Anglo churches, associations and state conventions which had more resources than language and culture churches, Martinez said more of these churches now are able to support new work.

"They are more mature. Their finances are better," h said. He cited Haitian Baptists who have aggressively sponsored missions and Bible studies.

For the future, Martinez said he sees continued growth in churches and membership.

"We will have new approaches and new ways of satisfying the needs," he said.

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Jo Ann Leavell: Contented
as a pastor's wife

By Debbie Moore

Baptist Press
10/20/94

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Anyone who knows Jo Ann Leavell knows she doesn't want to miss anything. And with her passion for life is a desire for everyone to be involved -- she doesn't want anyone to miss anything.

"My fear is that many women, and especially minister's wives, are missing the blessing God desires for each one of us," Leavell said at a recent three-day conference in Atlanta for wives of seminary students.

Leavell has been a pastor's wife 36 years, all of her married life. And since 1976, shortly after her husband became seminary president, she has taught a class titled "The Minister's Wife," an eight-week course she designed especially for student wives on the seminary's main campus. This Atlanta conference was the first time the class has been offered to extension center student wives. Women from eight southeastern states were represented.

Although she's the first to confess she did not initially anticipate the life of a preacher's wife, Leavell now tells every student wife she meets, "I am a satisfied customer."

She doesn't remember how or when the change occurred. After several years of unhappiness with her life, she realized "something was wrong and something needed to be done." She began praying about her unhappiness and started to study her Bible more diligently. Then one day, "I woke up and realized my desires were changed (about being a pastor's wife) and I didn't want to miss anything!"

Since then, she said, she doesn't mind so much that she's not "the model preacher's wife, who plays the piano, sings and teaches a children's Sunday school class." Through prayer and Bible study she has discovered something she wants all minister's wives to know: "Discover your spiritual gifts. ... Don't try to take the former pastor's wife's place -- make a place for yourself. Be content with the way you are. ... And don't compare yourself (with other ministers' wives)."

Leavell is especially intent on seeing ministers' wives overcome problems of low self-esteem ("seven out of ten people have low self-esteem," she said she has discovered), as well as develop their own personal spiritual life with God.

Therefore, she devoted much of her class to the "whys" and "hows" of spiritual growth. She encouraged minister's wives to "practice the presence of God" and "keep the inner fire going."

"You can't survive spiritually by trying to tap into your husband's spiritual life," she said. "You have to have something for yourself."

Because of her personal desire to grow, Leavell is herself an avid reader. Poignant quotations from a wide variety of books were sprinkled throughout her lecture:

-- "A wife's most significant contribution to her marriage is her steadfast walk with the Lord."

-- "We wouldn't worry so much what people think if we'd stop to realize how little they do."

-- "Our children are our only eternal possession."

-- "No one is useless who lightens the burdens of another."

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Leavell told the women of her childhood as th youngest of five children in the home of a banker who saw to it that the children were in church on Sundays. Consequently, lif in a minister's home was something completely foreign to her when she found herself in the middle of it at th age of 21. Much of her knowledge of what to do -- and not do -- was learned the hard way: by making mistakes.

But as to that she said, "Failure is an indication of an active life," for it is "better to fail at doing something than to succeed at doing nothing."

Having found joy in her life as a minister's wife after several years of frustration, and having seen joy missing from the lives of many of her peers, Leav ll encouraged the minister's wives to change the way they think and act.

"If I have anything to share," she concluded, "it is a positive attitude from a satisfied customer in ministry."

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(BP) photo available upon request from NOBTS office of public relations.

Antillians see 11 U.S. sailors
baptized on beach in Curacao

Baptist Press
10/20/94

CURACAO, Netherlands Antilles (BP)--Antillians stopped swimming Oct. 16 to watch 11 American sailors in white pants and T-shirts march into the sea.

On a Caracas Bay beach in eastern Curacao, U.S. Navy chaplain Dwight Webster of Bremerton, Wash., and his assistant walked down the column, baptizing each man by immersion.

The men -- who had become Christians aboard the USS Truxton through the ministry of the American Baptist chaplain -- then walked out of the water, singing and hugging one another, the chaplain and the local Baptists they had invited to take part.

"What a mighty witness for the Lord, for Baptists and for the United States government," commented Southern Baptist missionary Leo Waldrop, who observed the baptisms along with members of Antiano Baptist Church.

Nineteen personnel from the ship, including the second-in-command for the 500-member crew, came to a children's camp sponsored by the church, where they sang special music and gave testimonies. Then church members accompanied the visitors to the nearby beach for the baptisms.

"Antillian men don't respond very easily or quickly to religious matters," Waldrop said of the Caribbean island chain's culture.

"What in the world could be more astonishing and more spiritually surprising than to see a group of sturdy young men not only obeying the Lord in baptism, but walking out of the water, singing and hugging" the people around them?

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1994 SBC Annual error mixes
ministers of music, youth

Baptist Press
10/20/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The 1994 SBC Annual contains a mixup involving a switch of headings for ministers of music and ministers of youth.

The SBC Annual, which carries directories of church personnel in even-numbered years, was recently mailed by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee to churches, Baptist associations, state conventions and SBC entities.

The section coded as "MM" actually is the directory of ministers of youth, while the section coded "MY" actually is the directory of ministers of music.

The misclassification resulted during the creation of diskettes at the Baptist Sunday School Board used in the production process and in the proofreading of the publication at the Executiv Committee.

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